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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-ninth session
New York, 15 March-4 April 1995
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace:

   (a) Preparatory activities at the national, regional and international levels;

   (b) Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

   (c) Reports from regional conferences and other international conferences;

   (d) Draft rules of procedure;

   (e) Draft Platform for Action;

   (f) Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

4. Programming and coordination matters related to the United Nations and the United Nations system.

5. Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

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6. Priority themes:

   (a) Equality: Equality in economic decision-making;

   (b) Development: Promotion of literacy, education and training, including technological skills;

   (c) Peace: Women in international decision-making.

7. Provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Commission.

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session.

Annotations

Item 1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required. At past sessions, the Commission has elected, in addition to a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

In resolution 1987/21, the Economic and Social Council recommended that, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Commission, the officers elected to the bureau of the Commission serve for a term of office of two years. The officers elected at the thirty-eighth session will continue to serve in their capacities during the thirty-ninth session, with the exception of the Rapporteur, whose country is no longer a member of the Commission. The Commission will elect a Rapporteur.

The membership of the Commission in 1995 is given in the annex below.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

In resolution 1987/22 on measures to strengthen the role and functions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council decided to structure the agenda for future sessions of the Commission around its functions, namely programming, coordination, monitoring and policy development.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission was approved by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1994/237. The annotations to the provisional agenda set out below take into account resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session that are relevant to the work of the Commission.

Proposals concerning the organization of work of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission will be submitted in a note by the Secretariat.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/69, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session.

In section II of resolution 37/7, the Commission requested the Secretary-General of the Conference, taking as a guideline practices being used by such other world conferences as the International Conference on Population and Development, to propose to the regional commissions a formula to determine the eligibility of non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to participate in preparatory activities and/or regional meetings, which would make them eligible to apply for accreditation to the World Conference. The Commission also requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to obtain from the regional commissions a list of those non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council which were determined to be eligible, which would be submitted to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session so that the Commission might make a list of those to be invited to the World Conference, bearing in mind that for the proper functioning of the Conference and the efficient participation of non-governmental organizations themselves, their number should not be excessive and that the list should have a regional balance; attention would be given to the existing resources and facilities available in the host country. The Commission further requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session a proposal for criteria to be used by the Commission in drawing up the final list.

In resolution 48/108, the General Assembly, taking into account Commission resolution 37/7, adopted modalities for the participation in and contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women and its preparatory process of non-governmental organizations. By its decision 38/2, the Commission approved a list of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation to the Fourth World Conference on Women and its preparatory body. The Commission will have before it a list of additional non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/108.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session (E/CN.6/1995/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the session (E/CN.6/1995/L.2)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a list of additional non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/108

Item 3. Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace:

(a) Preparatory activities at the national, regional and international levels

(b) Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

(c) Reports from regional conferences and other international conferences

(d) Draft rules of procedure

(e) Draft Platform for Action

(f) Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

In resolution 45/129, the General Assembly endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12, in which the Council recommended that a world conference on women be held in 1995, and requested the Commission on the Status of Women to act as the preparatory body for the conference.

In resolution 36/8 A, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare draft rules of procedure of the Conference for consideration at its thirty-eighth session. In resolution 38/10, the Commission, having taken note of the draft rules of procedure submitted by the Secretary-General, decided to consider them at its thirty-ninth session.

In resolution 36/8 E, the Commission decided that the documentation for the Fourth World Conference on Women would include, inter alia, the report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the update of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development and an updated compendium on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

In section III of resolution 37/7, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare, and to present to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session, a draft of the Platform for Action, following the guidelines set out in the annex to the resolution and in the results of the meeting of the Inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission, held from 10 to 14 January 1994. In resolution 38/10, the Commission, having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General containing the draft of the Platform for Action, requested the Secretary-General to develop the draft further, for consideration by the Commission at its thirty-ninth session, based on the texts contained in the annex to resolution 38/10, also taking into account the relevant results of the regional preparatory meetings.

In section VI of resolution 37/7, the Commission reiterated its request that the Secretary General prepare a report on existing technical and financial cooperation targeting programmes in favour of women, as well as guidelines for a

comprehensive plan to overcome constraints and increase cooperation with regard to critical areas of concern.

In resolution 38/10, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session on progress in the preparations for the Conference and, in particular, on the further implementation of section V of Commission resolution 37/7, on the information campaign. It further requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to convey to the preparatory committees for the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Social Summit and to the International Conference on Population and Development areas of concern relevant to them, as reflected in the draft Platform for Action and in the resolutions adopted at the thirty-eighth session, and to report back to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session.

The General Assembly, in resolution 49/160 on the proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, requested the Economic and Social Council to re-examine the issue, at a resumed session to take place after the Fourth World Conference on Women and before the Third Committee of the General Assembly considered the item on advancement of women, taking into account the deliberations of the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session, of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions concerning institutional arrangements in the United Nations system for the advancement of women, and decided to take a final decision on the proposed merger at its fiftieth session.

In resolution 49/162, the Assembly urged the Commission, as the preparatory body for the Conference, to ensure that older women's concerns and contributions to development were recognized and incorporated into the strategies, programmes and policies of the Platform for Action which dealt with equality, development and peace.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing the revised draft of the Platform for Action (E/CN.6/1995/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (E/CN.6/1995/3 and addenda)

Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women (E/CN.6/1995/4)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the results of the regional conferences and other international conferences (E/CN.6/1995/5 and addenda)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a study on technical and financial cooperation programmes targeting women (E/CN.6/1995/6)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the draft rules of procedure of the Conference (E/CN.6/1994/L.3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the 1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (A/49/378)

Documentation for information

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/49/217-E/1994/103)

Item 4. Programming and coordination matters related to the United Nations and the United Nations system

Programming matters

In resolution 1994/6 on improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat, the Economic and Social Council urged the Secretary-General to implement fully the plan of action to improve the status of women in the Secretariat by 1995, noting that his visible commitment was essential to the achievement of the targets set by the General Assembly. The Council also urged the Secretary-General to examine further existing work practices within the United Nations system, with a view to increasing flexibility so as to remove direct or indirect discrimination against staff members with family responsibilities, further considering such issues as job-sharing, flexible working hours, child-care arrangements, career-break schemes and access to training. The Council further urged the Secretary-General, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to accord greater priority to the recruitment and promotion of women in posts subject to geographical distribution, particularly in senior policy-level and decision-making posts and within those parts of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies where representation of women was considerably below the average, in order to achieve the goals set in General Assembly resolutions 45/125, 45/239 C, 46/100, 47/93 and 48/106 of an overall participation rate of 35 per cent by 1995 and 25 per cent in posts at the D-1 level and above by 1995. It strongly urged the Secretary-General to make further use of the opportunity offered by the United Nations reorganization process to promote more women into senior-level positions.

The Council called on the Secretary-General to strengthen, from within existing resources, the focal point for women within the Secretariat to ensure authority of enforcement and responsibility of accountability and give it the express mandate for overall implementation of the plan of action developed by the Secretary-General to improve the status of women in the Secretariat. It urged the Secretary-General to increase the number of women employed in the Secretariat from developing countries, particularly those that were unrepresented or underrepresented, and from other countries that had a low representation of women, including countries in transition. It requested the Secretary-General to further develop comprehensive policy measures aimed at the prevention of sexual harassment in the Secretariat.

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to ensure that a progress report on the status of women in the Secretariat, containing, inter alia, policy measures aimed at the prevention of sexual harassment in the Secretariat, was presented to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session and to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, and to ensure that it was issued in accordance with the six-week rule for the circulation of documentation.

The General Assembly, in resolution 49/167, requested the Secretary-General to ensure that a progress report on the status of women in the Secretariat containing, inter alia, information on activities undertaken towards the achievement of the goals and objectives contained in the strategic plan and policy measures aimed at the prevention of sexual harassment in the Secretariat, was presented to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session, in accordance with the relevant rules on the delivery timetable for documentation, and to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

In resolution 38/10, the Commission called upon the Secretary-General, in preparing the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, to anticipate, from within existing levels of the programme budget, adequate human and financial resources to carry out fully the strategic action required by the United Nations to implement the Platform for Action. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on programme proposals for the biennium 1996-1997.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing updated information on the status of women in the Secretariat (E/CN.6/1995/7)

Note by the Secretariat on programme proposals for the biennium 1996-1997 (E/CN.6/1995/L.3)

Item 5. Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

Palestinian women

In resolution 38/4 on Palestinian women, the Commission on the Status of Women decided to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children. It requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, and to submit to the Commission, at its thirty-ninth session, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

The report of the Secretary-General on this question will be before the Commission.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

In resolution 47/94, the General Assembly recommended that meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women be scheduled, whenever possible, to allow for the timely transmission of the results of its work to the Commission on the Status of Women, for information, in the same year. The main substantive results of the work of the thirteenth session of the Committee will be made available to the Commission.

In resolution 1994/7, the Economic and Social Council, having noted suggestion No. 5 on the feasibility of preparing an optional protocol to the Convention, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its thirteenth session, decided that the Commission on the Status of Women should examine, at its thirty-ninth session, in cooperation with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and taking into account the results of any governmental expert meeting on the question that might be convened prior to that session, the feasibility of introducing the right of petition through the preparation of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Communications concerning the status of women

In resolution 76 (V) of 5 August 1947, the Economic and Social Council established a procedure by which the Commission on the Status of Women would handle communications relating to the status of women. In resolution 304 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women, and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In resolution 1993/11, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed that the Commission on the Status of Women was empowered to make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

Mainstreaming women's human rights

By resolution 38/2, the Commission, having noted the important roles that the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had to play in making the general human rights work of the United Nations more gender conscious and in promoting the universal and indivisible human rights of women, stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights to ensure that the United Nations human rights mechanisms address on a regular basis violations of women's human rights and that the Commission on the Status of Women regularly took stock of that integration process while carrying out its central role of monitoring activities relating to the status of

women. It emphasized the need to develop and enhance the role of focal points on women's human rights, both in the Centre for Human Rights and in the Division for the Advancement of Women, and to ensure cooperation and coordination between the two bodies on an ongoing basis.

In the same resolution, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to see to the preparation of a joint workplan on women's human rights for the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women on an annual basis and to inform both the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women at their annual sessions, beginning in 1995, of those plans; and to promote the mutual availability of documentation, as well as the development of a public information strategy. It encouraged the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for Human Rights to explore the possibilities of organizing training in women's human rights, inter alia, by exchange of personnel, so that human rights officers could be trained in women's rights issues and the personnel in the Division for the Advancement of Women could be trained in general human rights matters. It decided to remain seized of the matter and, in particular, to examine at its thirty-ninth session the progress made and the plans developed.

In its resolution 49/161, the General Assembly requested the Commission to continue to examine the implications of the World Conference on Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Conference for its central role in matters related to the rights of women within the United Nations system and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995. It also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report for the Commission, for consideration at its thirty-ninth session, on steps to be taken by the Division for the Advancement of Women, in cooperation with other United Nations bodies, specifically the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, to ensure that relevant human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, such as treaty-monitoring bodies, rapporteurs and working groups, regularly addressed violations of the rights of women, including gender-specific abuses.

Violence against women, including migrant women workers

In resolution 38/3 on elimination of violence against women, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the reports of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women were brought to the attention of the Commission on the Status of Women as a source of information for its monitoring role and recommendations on policy, and specifically for its review and appraisal of the action taken in accordance with the Declaration, which should be presented at the Fourth World Conference on Women. It also requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Special Rapporteur could attend the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and relevant United Nations conferences, especially the Fourth World Conference on Women. It requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session on the activities of the United Nations bodies and institutions concerned with crime prevention with regard to the question of violence against women, and decided to remain seized of the question of violence against women.

In resolution 38/7 on violence against women migrant workers, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to see to the development of concrete indicators to determine the situation of women migrant workers in sending and receiving countries as a basis for future action. It requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session his report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, relative to violence against women migrant workers, which should include the reports to be submitted by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, the Centre for Human Rights, relevant United Nations functional bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Equal pay for work of equal value

In its resolution 38/8 on equal pay for work of equal value, the Commission requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Labour Organization and other appropriate international and regional bodies, to submit to the Commission, at its thirty-ninth session, a report on the situation at the national level in respect of the implementation of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, particular attention to be paid, to the extent possible, to the adequacy of mechanisms and procedures for facilitating such implementation. The information and analysis requested are included in the 1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, which is before the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on Palestinian women (E/CN.6/1995/8)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/1995/CR.31)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/1995/SW Communications List No.29)

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations bodies and institutions concerned with crime prevention (E/CN.6/1995/9)

Results of the fourteenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/1995/CRP.1)

Note by the Secretary-General on steps to be taken by the Division for the Advancement of Women to ensure that relevant human rights mechanisms of the United Nations regularly address violations of the rights of women, including progress in preparing a joint work plan on women's human rights for the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women (E/CN.6/1995/13)

Documentation for information

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its thirteenth session (A/49/38)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/49/308)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000 (A/49/349)

Report of the Secretary-General on violence against migrant women workers (A/49/354)

Item 6. Priority themes:

(a) Equality: Equality in economic decision-making

(b) Development: Promotion of literacy, education and training, including technological skills

(c) Peace: Women in international decision-making

In resolution 1990/15, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the priority themes for the thirty-seventh to fortieth sessions of the Commission.

In resolution 1987/24, the Council recommended that, when resources were available, expert group meetings be convened to assist in the preparation of the work of the Commission on priority themes. For the present session of the Commission, the following meetings and seminars were held: expert group meetings on gender, education and training (International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization, Turin, Italy, 10-14 October 1994), women and economic decision-making (New York, 7-11 November 1994) and gender and the Agenda for Peace (New York, 5-9 December 1994). The results of these meetings have been incorporated in the appropriate reports.

In resolution 49/161, the General Assembly requested the Commission, when considering the priority theme related to development during its thirty-ninth and subsequent sessions, to ensure its early contribution to the preparatory work for forthcoming major international conferences, such as the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in 1995, and to address the impact of technologies on women. It also requested the Commission to give special attention to women in developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries, who suffered disproportionately from the effects of the global economic crisis and the heavy external debt burden, and to recommend further measures for the equalization of opportunity and for the integration of the roles and perspective of women, as well as their needs, concerns and aspirations, into the entire development process when considering the priority theme of development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on equality in economic decision-making (E/CN.6/1995/10)

Report of the Secretary-General on promotion of literacy, education and training, including technological skills (E/CN.6/1995/11)

Report of the Secretary-General on women in international decision-making (E/CN.6/1995/12)

Item 7. Provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Commission

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1984 (LVII), the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its fortieth session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

Item 8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its session.

Annex

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN 1995

	Term expires on 31 December
Algeria	1996
Angola	1998
Australia	1996
Austria	1996
Bahamas	1997
Belarus	1996
Belgium	1998
Bulgaria	1998
Chile	1995
China	1995
Colombia	1996
Congo	1998
Costa Rica	1997
Cuba	1996
Cyprus	1997
Ecuador	1997
Finland	1995
France	1996
Greece	1998
Guinea	1997
Guinea-Bissau	1996
India	1997
Indonesia	1998
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1997
Japan	1996
Kenya	1997
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1997
Madagascar	1995
Malaysia	1997
Mexico	1998
Namibia	1997
Pakistan	1995
Peru	1995
Philippines	1998
Portugal	1998
Republic of Korea	1997
Russian Federation	1998
Slovakia	1995
Spain	1995
Sudan	1996
Thailand	1996
Togo	1998
Tunisia	1997
Venezuela	1995
Zambia	1995